

MINUTES OF THE FORTY-THIRD MEETING OF SUBCOMMITTEE ON
EXPLOITATION OF FOREIGN LANGUAGE PUBLICATIONS

11 February 1955

Present

Members: Harold J. Gordon, Army
Cdr. G. B. McKinney, Navy
Maj. Howard G. Neumann, Air Force

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Consultants: Capt. Colville, Air Force

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1. The 43rd meeting convened at 1400 hours and the minutes of the 42nd meeting were approved with the following amendments:

a. Navy: Page 1, paragraph 4 should read, "Cdr. McKinney stated that their participation was passive as their needs were met by the requirements of the other agencies and therefore they would prefer to defer to Air Force who has a major interest."

Page 2, paragraph 7 should read, "Cdr. McKinney stated that Navy's needs would be generally met by Air Force requirements."

Tab A, 1st paragraph, after "Army, Navy and Air Force" strike "required" and add "desired."

b. Air Force: Page 1, last sentence, after "requiring abstracts" add "as it would cause an additional 30 day delay and they would prefer to see a continuation of the present abstracting program but on a selective basis since receiving cards other than those needed only serves to confuse their analysts."

2. Scientific abstracting (continued)

A discussion was entered into of the number of titles that should be abstracted and whether any part of the list could be abstracted selectively, without any general agreement.

The Chairman suggested that the Subcommittee return to the original number of 54 titles of which FDD can cover 16. FDD could then meet with the Air Force representatives and [REDACTED] to decide which specific titles should be abstracted and which would be specifically done by ATIC, AID and FDD.

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Captain Colville and [REDACTED] agreed that this procedure would be satisfactory.

The Chairman then summed up as follows:

The Subcommittee is then agreed that a continuous abstracting program on 54 titles will be done as agreed between AID, ATIC and FDD. FDD will "back stop" the effort by doing abstracts on an ad hoc basis, on specific request, from any of the remaining Russian titles.

This was agreed upon by the Subcommittee.

The Chairman stated that in order to work out the details of the abstracting program [REDACTED] will call a meeting and notify all members so that all interested can be present and form a working group for this purpose.

The question was brought up as to whether some form of selective dissemination could not be accomplished whereby each agency would only receive abstracts from those titles of interest to it.

The Chairman suggested that the working group determine the respective listings and investigate the possibilities of assuring such a selective dissemination.

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[REDACTED] asked whether a transliteration as well as the translation of institutes could not be included in abstracts due to the slack of a standardized usage. [REDACTED] stated that FDD has a list of standardized translations for 5500 to 6000 institutes and if Air Force could use it there would be no problem. Maj. Neumann stated that Air Force would like to look over the list first. Use of the standardized list will be considered by the working group.

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3. "Science News Items"

In response to the Chairman's request for comments on this report the following replies were made:

Army: The report is of considerable value and should be retained.

Navy: It is of value to Navy and should be retained.

Air Force: Reserve comment until a full canvass of Air Force consumers.

CIA: Concurred with Army and Navy but would like to see the report expanded to include all items not picked up by the abstracting services. This would include new organizations, changes in organizations, new identification of scientists and institutions, new assignments of scientists, nominations and election of scientists to the academies, awards and Stalin Prizes, and deaths of scientists.

NSA: Concurred

The Chairman stated that as the consensus of opinion was for retention of "Science News Items," it would be continued and FDD will look into how far it can be expanded with available manpower to include the needs stated by [REDACTED]

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4. "Survey of Scientific and Technical Dissertations Defended at USSR Higher Educational Institutions"

Opinions regarding this report were as follows:

Army: Found the report useful but secondary to "Science News Items."

Navy: The report has some information of use to Navy but if some effort must be discontinued this report could be dropped.

Air Force: Of great value and should be continued.

CIA: This is a very valuable report and should be continued.

NSA: Concurred with Army.

The Chairman stated that there seemed to be a strong need for the report and it will be continued.

5. "Abstracts of Articles from Unavailable Soviet Scientific and Technical Periodicals"

Army: This is of great value and should be continued.

Navy: It is of some use to Navy but would rate of lowest priority.

Air Force: This is definitely needed and of value to Air Force analysts.

CIA: Have an important and strong interest in the report and should be continued.

NSA: Have no particular need for the information and felt it was of a low priority to them.

The Chairman stated that the report appears to be meeting a definite need and will be continued.

6. Mr. Gordon stated that Army wondered whether FDD in screening of publications could put out notations where the Soviets had reviewed one of their own books. This type of information would be valuable in guiding the attaché in Moscow toward procurement.

The Chairman stated that FDD would look into what manpower was available for the purpose and report at the next meeting.

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7. [REDACTED] referred to the Review of Exploitation in Response to Services Required on Scientific and Technical Publications [Tab B of minutes of the 42nd meeting] and wondered about the response to accessions lists and like means of notification.

The Chairman stated that the items listed under A.1, A.2, and A.3 all answered this problem.

Major Neumann drew attention of the agencies to the fact that now, in addition to Phase I and Phase II cards, under A.3, AID is now issuing Phase X cards which are something of a combined form of the two.

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[REDACTED] referred back to the original discussions of the Committee in which the expression of interest was for a combined accessions list.

The Chairman stated that the Subcommittee drew up a memorandum to the Procurement Committee asking that they look into the matter as the subject was within their jurisdiction. No response has been received to date but the Chairman will get in touch with them and see what can be done.

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Regarding A.3, [REDACTED] felt that in recent annotations by Foreign Branch, CIA Library, annotations have been inadequate and do not meet the needs of OSI. The Chairman explained that CIA Library had stated that they had the capability of making these annotations; FDD had discontinued that effort to avoid duplication. The Chairman will take the matter up with CIA Library.

8. Mr. Gordon asked whether the semiannual report titled "Review of Chinese Communist Scientific and Technical Periodicals" could not be published more frequently. FDD stated that they believed that sufficient information was not available at this time to justify more frequent issuances.

9. The Chairman announced that the agenda for the next meeting will be a review of the weekly report "Selected Briefs from the International Press." He distributed to each of the members a statement of suggested changes in the FDD program on USSR exploitation together with a report of action taken by FDD to date on the USSR program and stated that a review of this program would immediately follow "Selected Briefs" on the agenda.

10. The meeting adjourned at 1530 hours. The next meeting will be held on Friday, 25 February 1955, in Room 2125 M Building at 1400 hours.